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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,325	08/02/2001	Robert M. Scarborough	044481-5060-01-US	5032

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MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

KIFLE, BRUCK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,325

Applicant(s)

Scarborough et al.

Examiner

Bruck Kifle, Ph.D.

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1624



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 14, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

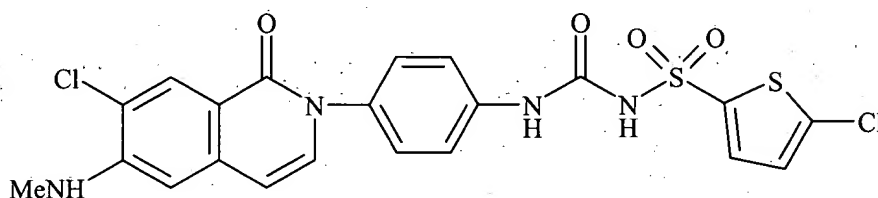
- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 and 6
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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Election/Restriction

Applicant's election with traverse of compound 389 (example 389) in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged.

The elected compound has the structure



This compound corresponds to formula I in claim 1, wherein W is 1,4-phenylene; D is 1-oxo(2-2-hydroisoquinolyl); E is hydrogen, Y is oxygen and A is 2-chlorothieryl.

The traversal is on the ground that "a complete search of all formulas can be made without undue burden on the Office." This is not persuasive because, in fact, search of all the formulas will be an undue burden on the office. As an example, the elected compound is classified in class 546 and would be searched therein. All else being the same, if W represents a pyrrolyl, then such a compound will be classified in class 548. Should W represent phenyl, the classification will be in class 549. Should W represent a quinazolinyl, classification will be in class 544 and should W represent a benzoazepinyl, the compound will be classified in class 540. Thus, the search required for any one of these compounds is not required for another resulting in a multitude of searches which is unduly burdensome to the office. The claims are drawn to structurally dissimilar compounds which are independent and patentably distinct.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

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The elected species was not found and the search was expanded according to MPEP 803.02 to embrace compounds of formula I wherein A is thienyl (optionally substituted), W is 1,4-phenylene (optionally substituted) and D represents 1-oxo-2(1H)-isoquinolinyl (optionally substituted).

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because: The prior US application is identified as 09/775,812 which is in error. The correct serial number of the parent application is 09/775,812.

See also the first paragraph of the specification which identifies the wrong application.

Improper Markush Rejection

Claims 1-20 are rejected under a judicially created doctrine as being drawn to an improper Markush group, that is, the claims lack unity of invention. In formula I-VI, the definitions of A, E, W and D are defined in such a way that they keep changing the core of the compound that determines the classification. By changing these values, several patentably distinct and independent compounds are claimed. In order to have unity of invention the compounds must have "a community of chemical or physical characteristics" which justify their inclusion in a common group, and that such inclusion is not repugnant to principles of scientific classification" In re JONES (CCPA) 74 USPQ 149 (see footnote 2). The structural formula I-VI

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do not have a significant structural feature that is shared by all of its alternatives which is inventive. These formula only have a nitrogen as common. Compounds embraced by the instant claims are so diverse in nature that a prior art anticipating a claim with respect to one member under 35 USC 102 would not render obvious the same claim under 35 USC 103. This is evidentiary of patentably distinct and independent inventions.

Limiting the claims to the searched group, indicated above, would overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

i) The term "heteroaryl" is indefinite because it is not known how many atoms are present, how many and what kind of heteroatoms are involved, what size ring is intended and how many rings are present.

ii) The term "heterocyclic" is indefinite because it is not known how many atoms make up the ring, which atoms are present and what kind of a ring (monocyclic, bicyclic, spiro, fused, bridged, saturated, etc.) is intended.

iii) The term "substituted" without saying which substituents are intended is indefinite. One skilled in the art cannot say which substituents are permitted and which ones are not.

iv) The term "prodrug" is indefinite because one cannot say what this prodrug looks like.

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v) In claim 21, the phrase "cardiovascular disease" is indefinite because it covers a variety of diseases that are unrelated (leaky valve and tumors) and/or are opposites (e.g. hypertension and hypotension). A clarification is required.

Applicants are reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, critical limitations from the specification cannot be read into the claims (see, e.g., *In re Van Guens*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 PSPG2d 1057 (Ded. Cir. 1991)). Accordingly, without the recitation of all these critical limitations, the claims do not adequately define the instant invention.

Applicant is advised that should claim 9 be found allowable, claims 10-13 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof, and, should claim 14 be found allowable, claims 15-18 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Note, the intended use of a pharmaceutical composition does not have any patentability weight. It is suggested to rewrite claim 9 as "A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier."


Similar language for claim 14 is also suggested.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruck Kifle whose telephone number is (703) 305-4484.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4556 or (703) 305-3592. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

February 6, 2003


Bruck Kifle
Primary Examiner
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